(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of fighter aircrafts in operation in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government concluded a Contract during 1996 with Rosvoorouzhenie, a Russian enterprise, for the procurement of 8 Sukhoi-30 K and 32 Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft. These aircrafts are being delivered in batches. 12 Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft have been received during October-December, 2003.

(c) It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose the information.

Purchase of AK 47 Assault Rifles

312. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently purchased A.K. 47 Assault rifles from a Bulgarian firm by overlooking the tender offer which was 25 per cent cheaper.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the specific reasons for ignoring the cheapest offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Joint Patrolling in the High Seas with foreign Countries

313. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed joint patrolling of high seas with Singapore, Australia, Thailand and Philippines to check piracy, narco trafficking, smuggling etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how India stands to gain by this move?